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THE GODFATHER

Screenplay

by

MARIO PUZO

and

FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA

SECOND DRAFT

March 1, 1971

PARAMOUNT PICTURES
1 Gulf and Western Plaza
New York, New York

today 7th May

mon — 10

tues 11 Studio

Wed 12 — Stalag 2B

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Fri. 14

mon 17

tues 18

Wed 19 Sc. 84 michel + Dan

thur 20 1920 Seq

Rap

Fri 21

Alter. mon. 24 Sc 84

tues. 25 1920 Seq

1A (CONT.)

DON CORLEONE
You ask for more. Your daughter is alive.

BONASERA
Then let them suffer as she suffers.
(there is no answer)
How much shall I pay you?

Both SONNY and HAGEN tense at this, and glance to the DON for his reaction. He is so cold.

DON CORLEONE
You never armed yourself with true friends. You thought it was enough to be an American. After all, the Police guarded you, there were courts of Law. You could come to no harm, you had no need for friends like me. But now, you come to me and say "Don Corleone, give me Justice." And you do not ask with respect; you do not offer your friendship; you do not call me Godfather... You come into my house on the wedding day of my daughter and you ask me to do murder and you say "How much shall I pay you?"

BONASERA
America has been good to me!

DON CORLEONE
Then America has ruled; the Judge has ruled! Bring your daughter flowers and a box of candy when you visit her. Forget this madness...it is not American. Forgive them, forget. Life is full of misfortune.

BONASERA
Let me pay you!

DON CORLEONE turns his back; it is a dismissal. Then he sighs, unable to remain angry at the grieving man.

DON CORLEONE
(gently)
Why are you afraid to give your first allegaiance to me? You

1A (CONT.)

DON CORLEONE (Cont'd.)
go to the law courts and wait for months. You spend money on lawyers who know you're to be made a fool of. You take judgement from a Judge who sells himself like the worst whore on the street. But, if you had come to me as a friend, those scum who ruined your daughter would be weeping bitter tears this day. If by some misfortune an honest man like yourself made enemies, they would become my enemies, and then...
(he raises his arm, and points a finger at BONASERA)
believe me, they would fear you.

N.G.

BONASERA bows his head, and murmurs.

BONASERA
Be my friend...

DON CORLEONE
Good. You shall have your your Justice.

BONASERA
(taking his hand)
Godfather.

DON CORLEONE
Some day, and that day may never come, I will call upon you to do me a service in return.

1B EXT DAY: MALL (SUMMER 1945)

A HIGH ANGLE of the CORLEONE MALL: six houses clustered around a common courtyard; one large and dominating the others, the house of DON CORLEONE himself. There are at least five hundred guests filling the main courtyard and gardens. There is music and laughter and dancing and countless tables covered with food and wine.

DON CORLEONE stands at the Gate, flanked on either ~~side~~ by a son: FREDO and SONNY, all dressed in the formal attire of the Wedding Party. He warmly shakes the

1H (CONT.)

MICHAEL puts his arm around her affectionately; she reaches up and kisses him on the mouth. But he is self-conscious with all his family around.

MICHAEL
Hey...hey...

1J INT DAY: DON'S OFFICE (SUMMER 1945)

DON CORLEONE rises.

DON CORLEONE
Luca, my most valued friend.

LUCA moves formally to the DON, a little ridiculous in his tuxedo. He kisses the DON's hand, and then quickly takes the envelope from out of his jacket pocket, holds it out, but does not release it until he makes a formal speech.

LUCA
(with difficulty)
Don Corleone...I am honored, and grateful...that you invited me to your home...on the wedding day of your...daughter. May their first child...be a masculine child. I pledge my never ending loyalty.
(he offers the envelope)
For your daughter's bridal purse.

DON CORLEONE
Thank you Luca.

The DON takes it, and then LUCA's hand, which he squeezes so tightly, we might imagine it to be painful.

LUCA
Let me leave you, Don Corleone. I know you are busy.

He turns, almost an about-face, and leaves the study with the same formality he entered with. DON CORLEONE breathes more easily, and gives the thick envelope to HAGEN.

DON CORLEONE
I'm sure it's the most generous gift today.

1K (CONT.)

There is no apparent subtext in this scene which is expository

MICHAEL
My father helped him with his career...

MAMA
'O Marenariello!' 'O Marenariello!', Johnny!

JOHNNY is shaking his head, but the crowd presses him for that song. Then, finally, leading CONNIE to the microphone with him, he agrees.

JOHNNY
All right...
(into the Mike)
Hello...hello.
(feedback)
For the Bride...My Connie.

Everyone goes 'ahh' and settles down; and JOHNNY begins to sing to CONNIE in Italian.

KAY
(excited)
How did your father help him Michael?

MICHAEL
Listen to the song.

KAY
No tell me. I want to know.

MICHAEL
When Johnny was just starting, he was signed to a personal services contract to the Les Halley band. Then he started to make it big, and wanted to get out of it. Johnny is my father's Godson, so my father went to see Halley, and offered him ten thousand dollars to release him. Halley refused. The next day, my father went back with his Consiglere Gonco...like a Counselor, and Luca Brasi. An hour later, Halley released Johnny for a certified check of one thousand dollars.

KAY
How?

Tuesday

JOHNNY
What should I do?

DON CORLEONE
YOU CAN ACT LIKE A MAN. Is this how you turned out - a Hollywood Finochio who cries like a woman? What should I do? What should I do? You spend time of your family?

JOHNNY
Sure I do.

DON CORLEONE
Good. A man that doesn't spend time with his family isn't a real man. You look terrible Johnny. I want you to eat well and rest and then at the end of the month, this Hollywood bigshot will give you the part you want.

JOHNNY
It's too late. All contracts have been signed.

DON CORLEONE
I'll make him an offer he can't refuse. Now, go back to the party and leave it all to me. When does my daughter leave with the bridegroom?

HAGEN
Something important.

DON CORLEONE
Never! Just give him a living. What else do you have on your list?

HAGEN
Day next week.

DON CORELEONE Sollozo
We'll discuss ~~him~~ when you get back from California.

HAGEN
When am I going?

DON CORLEONE Talk To
Tonight. I want you to ~~see~~ that movie ~~Pezzonovanta~~ bigshot and settle this business for Johnny. Is there anything else? I'd Like To go To my daughter's wedding.

HAGEN
Last out the night.

DON CORLEONE
Genco will wait for me. Santino, tell your brother to come with me to see Genco. Tell Fredo to drive the big car and ask Johnny to come.

~~SONNY~~

Sonny And Michael? Don Corleone All my sons.

1S (CONT.)

and JOHNNY in the rear seat.

DON CORLEONE
Your girlfriend, she'll get back to the city all right?

MICHAEL
Tom said he'd take care of it.

The DON pulls the door shut; and the car pulls out, through the gate of the great Corleone Mall.

2A INT DAY: HOSPITAL CORRIDOR (SUMMER 1945)

A long white hospital corridor, at the end of which we can see a grouping of FIVE WOMEN, some old and some young, but all plump and dressed in black.

DON CORLEONE and his SONS move toward the end. But then the DON slows, putting his hand on MICHAEL's shoulder. MICHAEL stops, and turns toward his FATHER. The old hand glides past some medals on MICHAEL's chest.

DON CORLEONE
What miracles you do your strangers.

MICHAEL
I'll be out in three months...

DON CORLEONE
I have plans for you...

MICHAEL
I have my own plans.

DON CORLEONE
Oh, I know how you are. Go your own way now...but when you're ready, come to me as a son should.

too important

MICHAEL looks at his ~~FATHER~~ with a cold gaze, then turns and continues walking. The DON looks at him a moment, nodding to himself, and then continues toward the group of crow-like WOMEN.

2B INT DAY: HOSPITAL ROOM (SUMMER 1945)

DON CORLEONE enters the hospital room, moving closest to OUR VIEW. He is followed by his SONS, JOHNNY, and the WOMEN.